

NEW ENGLAND NOTE:
A NATURALIZED POPULATION OF RHAMNUS
CITRIFOLIA IN CONNECTICUT

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In 1976, during a survey of the flora of Spicebush Swamp Preserve in West Hartford, Connecticut, numerous shrubs were encountered which did not fit *Rhamnus cathartica*, a common species in this area. Preliminary identification by Joseph J. Dowhan, then with the Connecticut Geological & Natural History Survey, suggested that the shrub was *Rhamnus davurica*. On August 6, 1978, a specimen of this shrub was collected and identified as *Rhamnus davurica* Pallas by Harry E. Ahles, curator of the herbarium at the University of Massachusetts and deposited in the University of Massachusetts herbarium (MASS). The species was renamed *Rhamnus citrifolia* (Weston) Hess & Stearn in November 1979 (Hess & Stearn, 1979).

This station represents the first known naturalized population of this species in the state. Seymour (1969) reports the species only at two localities in Massachusetts, Holden and Worcester. It is native to Siberia, northern China, and Korea.

The thirty-three acre Spicebush Swamp Preserve is characterized by red maple (*Acer rubrum*) swamp over two thirds of its area and rolling old field slopes on the remainder. The land has not been used as pasture since 1962 and the old field portion is now dominated by *Juniperus virginiana*, *Rosa multiflora*, *Cornus racemosa*, *C. amomum*, *Lonicera morrowii*, *Prunus serotina*, *Malus spp.*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. citrifolia*. *Rhamnus citrifolia* is an integral and freely reproducing member of this community; specimens of the shrub can be found in every stage of maturity. The largest individual measures 3 3/4 inches d.b.h. and another plant is about 16 1/2 feet tall. During the three years I have observed this species there has been heavy fruiting each year.

In a 150 square foot area burned over in 1969 *Rhamnus citrifolia* is especially dense. It grows to the virtual exclusion of other woody and herbaceous plants in this small area.

I am grateful to Harry E. Ahles and Martha Capizzano who helped with this brief note.

REFERENCES

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FLAGG ROAD

WESTMOOR PARK

WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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